U.S. hockey team stumbles

Men blow an early lead, lose to Slovenia, 3-2

PYEONGCHANG2018 | SECTION S

THE PLAIN DEALER

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FINAL EDITION | Thursday, February 15, 2018 | $1.50

Today's weather

A little evening rain.
High: 35
Low: 22

Friday: Much colder, 38 | 27
Saturday: Some sun. 38 | 28

Weather report, **A2**

Metro&State

Court rejects appeal plea from serial killer Sowell

The Ohio Supreme Court denies a request by condemned Cleveland serial killer Anthony Sowell to reopen his appeal of his 2011 conviction and death sentence. **A3**

Harvest for Hunger: The Greater Cleveland Food Bank kicks off its annual food drive today, hoping to raise enough money to provide 22 million meals for the hungry. **A4**

Nation&World

Trump condemns domestic violence

President Donald Trump declares he is "totally opposed to domestic violence of any kind" as the White House seeks to tamp down growing controversy surrounding former aide Rob Porter. **A5**

Taliban appeal: Taliban insurgents issue an extraordinary appeal to the "American people," asking them to pressure U.S. officials to end the conflict in Afghanistan. **A5**

Business

Home sales drop as prices climb

The housing market started off 2018 on slightly softer footing, with sales down 1.5 percent from a year before across Northeast Ohio. The average sale price, however, rose 6.2 percent. **A6**

Forum

Infrastructure plan is actually a good start

Opinion: Ignore the flim-flam, and President Donald Trump is offering some good ideas with his infrastructure proposal. The question is whether it's too little, too late. **A10**

Sports

6 weeks to opener, time to start thinking baseball

The Indians officially open camp with pitchers and catchers reporting to the desert after five straight winning seasons. Paul Hoynes looks at questions facing the team this season. **B1**

Diversions

Getting to know America's TV dad

Milo Ventimiglia's road to becoming America's TV dad has been a winding one. The "This Is Us" star talks about how he got there, and what he thinks Jack would be like today. **P1**

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20 tastiest Girl Scout cookies of all time

The Ranker website took in more than 15,000 votes to determine which Girl Scout Cookies are the tastiest. See the results at **cleveland.com/entertainment.**

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SCHOOL ATTACK LEAVES 17 DEAD

EXPELLED STUDENT IN CUSTODY

Florida tragedy is deadliest assault on students since Newtown

JOEL AUERBACH | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Parents wait for news after reports of a shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Wednesday's rampage occurred just before dismissal as the gunman pulled a fire alarm and began tossing smoke bombs and shooting as people ran.

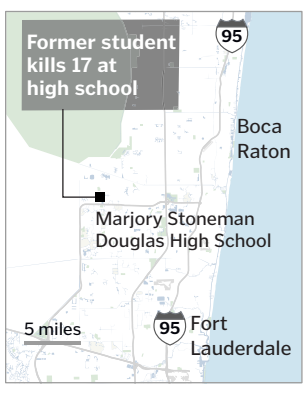
Suspect described as loner infatuated with weapons

CHARLES RABIN
Miami Herald

PARKLAND, FLA. — An American nightmare unfolded Wednesday afternoon at a South Florida high school after police say an expelled teenager returned to campus and opened fire with an assault rifle, killing 17 and wounding 15 more in the deadliest school shooting since a gunman attacked an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut.

Just before dismissal at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, thousands of students puzzled at the sound of a fire alarm were launched into a panic when gunfire punctuated the din. As teachers and students fled through hallways and hid under desks, a gunman opened fire, leaving a trail of bodies and stunned confusion in his wake.

The Broward Sheriff's Office said Nikolas Cruz, 19, walked the halls of the high school wielding an AR-15 and equipped with multiple magazines. U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson told reporters that Cruz pulled a fire alarm and then, wearing a gas mask, began tossing smoke bombs and shooting people as they ran through the haze.



SOURCE:Maps4News/HERE AP

Police say Cruz gunned down a dozen people inside buildings on the school's sprawling campus, two more on the grounds, and one more on the corner of a nearby road as he fled.

SEE SHOOTING | A8

JOHN MCCALL | SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL

Medical personnel tend to a victim outside the high school. In addition to the 17 people killed, 15 more were wounded, authorities said.

Congress

Senators craft immigration deal

Trump threatens to veto anything not to his specifications

ED O'KEEFE, AND MIKE DEBONIS
Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan group of senators reached a deal on immigration Wednesday as President Donald Trump attempted to preemptively undercut the proposal by delivering an ultimatum: Pass my plan or risk a veto.

The self-dubbed "Common Sense Caucus" of bipartisan senators late Wednesday circulated legislation that would fulfill Trump's calls to grant legal status to 1.8 million immigrants, and would authorize $25 billion for southern border security construction projects over the next decade — not immediately, as Trump wants. The bill also would curb family-based immigration programs, but not to the extent Trump is seeking and does not end a diversity visa lottery program that he wants eliminated.

Word of an agreement came as formal debate on immigration policy has mostly sputtered this week — a stalemate that has underscored the politically fraught nature of the showdown that is further complicated by GOP leaders' insistence that the Senate act by week's end.

SEE IMMIGRANTS | A9

J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democrats Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York, left, and Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois step outside the chamber during debate Wednesday.

Crimefighting

Rape kits not sent to lab — despite the law

Cleveland police fail to submit evidence

RACHEL DISSELL
rdissell@plaind.com

Cleveland police failed over three years to send hundreds of rape kits collected from sexual assault victims to a lab for testing, in violation of state law.

An Ohio law that took effect in 2015 requires rape kits to be sent to a lab within 30 days.

The department discovered in 2017 that a detective responsible for transporting the evidence to the county-run crime lab had not been submitting all of the kits in a timely manner, creating what the department referred to in emails as a "backlog."

The department would not confirm the number of rape kits it failed to properly submit, but public records The Plain Dealer obtained from county and state labs show the number is likely more than 220 kits collected in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

In August 2017, Special Investigations Bureau Commander James McPike asked the state crime lab to help test 47 of the kits, according to emails The Plain Dealer obtained through public records requests. McPike's email said the department anticipated sending those kits by the end of October 2017.

SEE KITS | A4